

April 2, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to let you know about an incident that happened at our school today. I regret that the timing of this incident prevented me from getting this letter into the hands of students before dismissal today, but I wanted you to have it as soon as possible.

Shortly after noon, one of our secretaries noticed a student walking back onto campus. The secretary stopped the student, a 10th-grader, and, following our standard protocol for such instances, had a student advocate escort the student to an assistant principal.

Two assistant principals questioned the student's reason for leaving campus, and his responses raised other questions. The assistant principals then searched the student's bookbag. That search turned up a loaded .22 caliber handgun which contained seven rounds.

Our School Resource Officer and I were immediately contacted and the gun and bookbag were turned over to police. Investigations into why the student was off campus and when and how he obtained the handgun are still ongoing by both our school and county police.

At this time, we have no information that any other student was involved or that the student whose bookbag contained the gun threatened anyone on our campus. However, possession of a weapon is a clear violation of our Code of Student Conduct. In addition to any charges being placed by police, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against the student involved.

I met with our school faculty this afternoon to discuss this situation, and I will continue to provide you with as much information as I am able to as this investigation moves forward. Please understand, however, that student confidentiality laws may prevent me from sharing information that you may wish to have.

I want to commend the swift and thorough work of the secretary and other staff members involved. Because of their quick and wise decisions, what could have been an incredibly dangerous situation was averted.

I assure you that we will continue to do everything we can to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Thank you for the support you continue to give your child and to Glen Burnie High School. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Vickie Plitt
Principal

VP/bm